IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as indicated herein.

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) A method of deriving location information about a first entity forming one endpoint of an actual or potential communication path at the other end of which is a second entity, the path extending at least in part through a fixed communications infrastructure, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) identifying a first intermediate node that lies along said path and is internal to the fixed communications infrastructure;

(b) accessing information about ~~thea~~ geographic significance of said first intermediate node taking into account ~~thean~~ identity of a second intermediate node that lies in said path downstream of the first intermediate node when considered in a direction along said path towards said first entity; and

(c) using the geographic significance information accessed in step (b) to provide said location information about the first entity.

4-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the first entity is a mobile entity with cellular radio capability and said path extends from the first entity, over a cellular radio infrastructure and through a gateway, this gateway forming a said intermediate node.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A method of discovering geographic significance information about nodes in a communications infrastructure, comprising the steps of-:

(a) deriving location data about a first entity forming one endpoint of an actual or potential path through the communications infrastructure to a second endpoint entity;

(b) identifying one or more intermediate nodes along said path;

(c) associating the location data with ~~the or~~ each said intermediate node; and

(d) repeating steps (a) to (c) multiple times for different first-entity locations and thereafter consolidating for each node, the associated location data into location zone data constituting said geographic significance data for the node.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein step (c) involves for each node with which location data is associated, noting the identity of any upstream/downstream node along said path towards the first entity; step (d) providing the location zone data for the node for access according to upstream/downstream node.

13. (Currently amended) A system for deriving location information about a first entity forming one endpoint of an actual or potential communication path at the other end of which is said system, the path extending at least in part through a fixed communications infrastructure, the system comprising:

a data store holding information about the geographic significance of internal nodes of the fixed communications infrastructure, with respect to directions of traversal of the nodes;

a node-discovery subsystem for identifying one or more <u>of</u> said nodes that lie along said path intermediate the system and the first entity; and

a data-processing subsystem operative to look up, in the data store, geographic significance information regarding at least one said intermediate node identified by the node discovery subsystem, the geographic significance information concerned relating to a direction of traversal of the node in a direction along said path towards said first entity and this information being used by the data-processing subsystem to provide said location information about the first entity.

14. (Original) A system according to claim 13, wherein the geographic significance information of a said intermediate node comprises information that takes account of at least one of the following parameters:

(i) the identity of a downstream intermediate node,

(ii) the identity of an upstream intermediate node,

(iii) the second entity;

the data-processing subsystem being operative to look up the geographic significance information on the basis of at least one of the foregoing parameters.

15. (Original) A system according to claim 13, wherein said path is at least in part through an IP network and the node-discovery subsystem is operative to effect node discovery by causing time-to-live timeouts at successive nodes along the path.